

### **REMARKS**

The Patent Office has indicated that claims 163, 164, 166, and 167 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Patent Office has also rejected the remaining claims for the reasons asserted in the Office Action. While Applicants do not concede the merits of any of the rejections as set forth in the Office Action, Applicants have elected to rewrite claims 163, 164, 166, and 167 in independent form, and rewrite the remaining dependent claims to depend ultimately from independent claim 163, solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process. Applicants have also added new claims 176-183 to depend ultimately from independent claim 164, claims 184-191 to depend ultimately from independent claim 166, and claims 192-199 to depend ultimately from independent claim 167. Dependent claims 176-181, 184-189, and 192-197 are based on dependent claims 157-162, respectively, while claims 182, 190, and 198 are based on dependent claim 165, and claims 183, 191, and 199 are based on dependent claim 168. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims similar or identical to the rejected claims as pending prior to amendment herein in one or more applications claiming priority to the instant application.

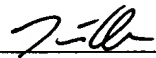
### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge Deposit Account No. 23/2825, under Order No. B1102.70000US00 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 9, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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